

must wait until January 21 to formally introduce such legislation.

I might note that we have been working very aggressively to get organized quickly. We agreed early on the committee ratios. I believe both parties now have decided most of their committee membership. The committee chairmen will be elected by their respective committees today, ratified by our conference tomorrow. I assume the same thing will occur or has occurred on the Democratic side. Hopefully, by Thursday we will have available to the Senate the list of all the committee membership and we will be ready for business.

There are a number of committees that intend to start hearings this week on some issues, as I understand it, like airbags; perhaps some early hearings on confirmations of the President's nominations. Again, next week I understand that there will certainly be hearings on the nominees that the President has submitted to the Senate. We are anxious to cooperate with the President, work expeditiously on these nominations from the Executive Calendar, and the day after inauguration, or certainly that week of the inauguration, we hope to have some of these nominations ready for a vote of the full Senate. I believe the cooperation by the Democratic leader in this effort will allow us to concentrate on that. And then we will have our opportunity to introduce our first bills on the 21st, make our statements, and get going for business. So I appreciate your cooperation, Senator DASCHLE.

Mr. DASCHLE. If the majority leader will yield for a moment to let me make a comment, I fully share the views expressed by the leader with regard to the timeframe within which legislation will be considered and introduced. We will be holding a conference tomorrow to talk in part about the intentions of our caucus to introduce the first 10 bills, numbered S. 11 through S. 20. But let me also emphasize how appreciative we are with regard to the early consideration of some of the nominees by the administration. They have emphasized, on a number of occasions, their desire to have their people in place as quickly as possible. That requires, of course, early consideration and early confirmation of many of these nominees. The distinguished majority leader again has reiterated his desire to do that, and I am appreciative of that and will work with him to accommodate that schedule.

So, I think we are doing the very best we can in meeting all of the different demands that we have upon us, schedulewise, and I appreciate very much the interest in moving ahead on many of these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that, when the Senate completes its

business today, it stand in recess until 12:30 on Thursday, January 9.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Hearing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, on Thursday, January 9, at 12:40 p.m., the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the counting of the electoral votes at 1 p.m. Senators are asked to be prompt and in the Chamber no later than 12:30 on Thursday. Following the counting of the votes, the Senate will adjourn until Tuesday, January 21, 1997.

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send an adjournment resolution to the desk providing for adjournment of the Senate over until Tuesday, January 21. I ask unanimous consent that it be reported by title, agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I have had some discussion with the majority and minority leaders on this question. I feel very strongly, and I think that an overwhelming majority of people in the country feel, that there is no more important thing we can do than to pass a reform bill and get a lot of this big money out of politics.

In this last election cycle, we saw the worst of the worst on top of a system that has not worked well for the people in the country. I feel like we should not—go into recess and we ought to get started on this. I wonder if the majority leader can make a commitment that within the first 100 days, we will at least have such a bill on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I will say to the distinguished Senator that it is my intent to urge early consideration of the issues that came to the forefront during the campaign and the election last year. I have asked the Governmental Affairs Committee to be the only committee to take a look at some of the alleged violations that occurred—perhaps some illegalities even, in terms of contributions during the campaign—to see if there is anything there that will justify proceeding further. I am not prejudging that at all.

I also have had an early conversation with the chairman of the Rules Committee and have asked him to have some early hearings—and these are not intended to be dilatory at all—hearings to get into, seriously, what happened, what needs to be done, to see if we can find a way that we can come to an

agreement on a bill that can pass the Senate, one that will not be filibustered by the Democrats or by the Republicans. Clearly, we have some disagreements on what the solutions are, but I fear that if we try to put a specific date on it, it will make the likelihood of our success less likely or more difficult.

I think that the Senate should proceed always with thought and thoroughness and try to see where we can come together. We can establish right here right now what we can't agree on. The question is what can we agree on. So we are intent on working on that.

The various committees have some things they are going to have to work on. The Rules Committee has an assignment right now that they are going to have to work on. I am going to urge Senator WARNER not to let that interfere with getting together in a bipartisan way to see if we can come up with some agreement.

We have the confirmations which we will be trying to do. We have a lot of things coming to the forefront. I am hoping, for instance, that we can take up and consider the so-called ISTEPA bill, the highway bill, before the Easter recess. It is a reauthorization we have to do. It is very important all across this country. I am not saying it is as important or more important than campaign finance reform. I am just saying there is a lot of work we need to do.

On the 21st, it is my hope and desire, after notification of the Democratic leader, to inform all Senators what the bills are that we hope to deal with before the Easter recess, perhaps on the floor. It will not be all inclusive.

I will be happy to talk further with the Senator from Minnesota. We are not going to try to shove this aside. I don't think we can. There are too many questions raised by this election. There are too many questions about how contributions are made, who makes them, how much they can make. I don't think we have all the answers yet, though, and to say we are going to do it in a 100-day demarcation—I have not even had a chance to look at the calendar and see what that means. It might be during the middle of the period that we said we would be out for the Easter recess.

I have tried working with Senator DASCHLE to tell Members more this year than has usually been the case what they can expect or anticipate in terms of being out. I would like, at least, to have us sit down and look at the calendar and see what this means and how it affects other things, such as budget negotiations, the importance of bringing it up before the Easter recess. The law requires we act before April 15 on the budget resolution. Why don't we try to do it before April 15 and comply with the law? In order to do that, and the way that time falls, there is only 1 week after the Easter recess before the 15th.